

**Introduced by Senator Aanestad**

February 22, 2007

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 3—Relative to the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 3, as introduced, Aanestad. Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000: extension.

This measure would urge the 110th Congress to reauthorize or extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, From 1908 to 2000, counties in the United States  
2 received 25 percent of the revenues generated on national forest  
3 lands in lieu of lost tax revenues that could have been generated  
4 had these lands remained in private hands; and

5 WHEREAS, In the 1990s, the volume and value of timber  
6 harvesting on national forest lands was dramatically reduced, which  
7 lead Congress to enact the Secure Rural Schools and Community  
8 Self-Determination Act of 2000, which provided a six year  
9 guarantee payment option that was independent of the revenue  
10 generated on the national forest lands; and

11 WHEREAS, The Secure Rural Schools and Community  
12 Self-Determination Act of 2000 expired on September 30, 2006,  
13 creating a lapse in funding to critical programs in schools and  
14 counties across the United States, including California; and

15 WHEREAS, Rural schools are dependent on federal  
16 revenue-sharing programs, including federal forest payments, for

1 maintaining vital educational services and programs, and to ensure  
2 an equitable education for all students; and

3 WHEREAS, Many of California's county public works programs  
4 will be crippled without funding from the act, causing the local  
5 road network to suffer long-term degradation and putting  
6 communities at risk for public safety emergencies due to cuts in  
7 staffing and operational activities; and

8 WHEREAS, A number of efforts are being made in both the  
9 United States House of Representatives and the United States  
10 Senate to extend the act for the short term and fully reauthorize  
11 the act through 2013, and the Legislature strongly supports these  
12 efforts; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
14 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
15 respectfully urges the 110th Congress to reauthorize the Secure  
16 Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to  
17 provide a long-term, stable source of funding for schools and  
18 counties to maintain vital programs; and be it further

19 *Resolved,* That in the absence of a long-term reauthorization of  
20 the act, the California Legislature urges the 110th Congress to pass  
21 a short-term extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community  
22 Self-Determination Act of 2000 to provide immediate funding to  
23 counties and schools, while the Congress continues to debate a  
24 long-term policy; and be it further

25 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
26 this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to  
27 the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
28 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
29 States.